

# EMERITUS

*The Australian National University Emeritus Faculty e-magazine*

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## Women missing out in the political biography landscape

Former politician Julia Banks' memoir about her time in Parliament has become a political must-read. But according to an authority from The Australian National University, 'power play' also highlights a glaring problem in Australia's political biography. Female politicians are left to tell their own stories and "correct the record" while men have their stories written for them, according to contributing author and feminist researcher Dr Blair Williams from ANU.

How Australia's female political leaders are immortalised today is in sharp focus in a special issue of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, published by ANU Press. When it comes to politics in Australia, men are being written about while women have to set the record straight. The 10 peer-reviewed articles take an in-depth view of political biography in Australia, including the ongoing dominance of "old white men" across the genre. Dr Williams added, "My research shows that of 31 political biographies published since 2010, only four have been written on Australian women: Penny Wong, Pauline Hanson, Patricia Giles and May Holman. But this fails to explain why neither Julia Gillard nor any woman leader of a political party besides One Nation have been chosen as the subject for a definitive biography.

"In this absence of biography, our female leaders are writing their own memoirs. Julia Banks' explosive *Power Play* is just one of many recent examples.

Dr Williams is calling on the development of a framework for feminist political biography in Australia. "Female politicians are criticised, measured and judged on the way they dress or their relationships rather than their political successes or careers," she said. "This is a major issue and fails to capture the massive and vital contribution many women make to our democracy and political culture every single day. We need to address this, and political biography has an important role to play. As this genre continues to shape our understanding of political culture and history, it is more important now than ever that women are included to dispel once and for all the myth that their stories are not worth recording."

For more information or copies of the latest edition of the *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, contact Jaimi Schmid at ANU Press on +61 2 6125 7598 or [Jaimi.Schmid@anu.edu.au](mailto:Jaimi.Schmid@anu.edu.au)

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## **University student sexual violence survey to help shape safer communities**

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson has welcomed the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration's Inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program, which was released earlier this month. Referred to in the report is the 2021 National Student Safety Survey involving Australian universities as a crucial step in preventing sexual violence and supporting those who have experienced it in their communities. Conducted on behalf of Universities Australia by the Social Research Centre (SRC) in partnership with leading violence-prevention expert Dr Anastasia Powell of RMIT University, the national survey will collect data on the scale and nature of university student experiences of sexual assault and sexual harassment.

Catriona Jackson said the survey – which will run until 3 October – builds on the first, foundational survey conducted in 2016 as part of the world-leading 'Respect. Now. Always' initiative. "Any incident of sexual violence that occurs inside or outside of our university communities is one too many," Ms Jackson said. "Universities acknowledge the lived experience of victims and survivors of sexual violence, some of whom may be participating in this survey. We wholeheartedly thank students for sharing their experiences and pay tribute to the courage it takes to do so. Sexual violence is a society-wide issue. Many in our community are at greater risk, including young women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disability and people in the LGBTIQ+ community. Our universities recognise their responsibility and are determined to build on their commitment to prevent sexual violence and support those who have experienced it."

The national survey will be conducted online and will randomly sample students from universities across the sector. Up to 10,000 students will be asked to participate from each university, depending on its size. All current and recent university students enrolled in the past five years will also be able to share their story anonymously online. Since the release of the 2016 survey, universities have implemented 800 major actions to prevent and respond to sexual violence in their institutions, including first-responder training for student leaders, and consent and bystander training for staff and students.

Due to a change in methodology, the prevalence rate arising out of the 2021 survey cannot be

directly comparable to the 2016 survey. Free and confidential support services are available for people who would like to seek assistance, including at universities.

“It is important to stress the confidentiality of all survey responses, including responses which recount or detail any sexual harassment or assault a student may have experienced or witnessed,” Ms Jackson said. “Student and survivor safety and wellbeing is at the centre of the entire survey process and those who participate will be able to stop and restart at any point, should they wish to step away and take a break.”

These support services include:

- 1800RESPECT: National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Violence counselling [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) or 1800 737 732
- MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 78, or [mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au)
- QLife, referral service for LGBTQ people: call 1800 184 527 or [qlife.org.au](http://qlife.org.au)
- Australia-wide university support and safety services (listed through Universities Australia)
- Beyond Blue: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) or 1300 22 4636
- Lifeline: [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au) or 13 11 14

A national report will be released in early 2022.

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## **ANU's Indigenous Alumna of the Year**

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson has been recognised as the 2021 ANU Indigenous Alumna of the Year for her contributions as an Australian academic, Indigenous feminist, author and activist for Indigenous rights.

Professor Moreton-Robinson is a Goenpul woman and was born on Queensland's Stradbroke Island, Quandamooka country. She attended The Australia National University (ANU) as a mature student, and at the time, was the only Aboriginal student at the University. She was the first Aboriginal person to be appointed to a mainstream lecturing position in women's studies in Australia, and has held senior positions in universities across the nation.

Professor Moreton-Robinson's advice for Indigenous students at ANU is to believe in themselves.

"Understand that Indigenous excellence is not a product of the university. Remember, Indigenous excellence existed with all of our different nations and it is something that we can achieve even in universities, outside of our communities. It's just a different form of Indigenous excellence but it is within our grasp," Professor Moreton-Robinson said.

"Be strong enough to get up every time somebody knocks you down and keep going. And hopefully, you will be the change-makers that this country needs, in so many different ways."

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## UN agencies and NGOs seek aid for Afghans

The United Nations has so far garnered pledges of more than \$US1 billion to provide aid in Afghanistan, which faces hunger, drought, growing poverty and the demise of public services. However, promises are no substitute for actual individual donations. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, speaking separately to the UN Human Rights Council, said there is a global "moral obligation" to help, while also noting that the Taliban's human rights practices will be a "benchmark for us and our partners in determining our future engagement with a new Afghan government."

A large number of UN agencies as well as humanitarian organisations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent and others are still on the ground in Afghanistan, all in need of assistance to help the Afghan population. Most have been in the country for far longer than the recently ended US-NATO-ANZ 20-year operation.

Qatar has sent medical supplies to Afghanistan. The UN's **World Health Organisation** reports that some 23 metric tonnes of life-saving medicines and supplies has reached Kabul. The shipment, which is among the first humanitarian aid to arrive at Kabul airport since operations were disrupted on 15 August, was flown by a Qatar Airways flight donated by the Government of the State of Qatar. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, said, "As health needs increase in Afghanistan, we must move quickly to address the shortages in medical supplies to keep life-saving health services running. I thank the Government of the State of Qatar for its generous and timely support, which has allowed WHO to replenish depleted stocks and meet the needs of the most vulnerable Afghans." A second flight donated by the State of Qatar is planned. Together, the two shipments which contain essential medicines such as insulin, medical consumables, trauma and surgery kits, and COVID-19 testing kits, will address the urgent health needs of 1.45 million people and provide for 5400 major and minor surgeries. They will be distributed to 280 health facilities and 31 public COVID-19 laboratories across Afghanistan.

In Geneva, the United Nations **World Food Programme** Executive Director, David Beasley, is urging the world to act now and step up support for the people of Afghanistan, calling on donors to provide immediate and generous funding to boost humanitarian action in the country. In an appeal on September 13, he said, "14 million people – 1-in-3 – are marching to the brink of starvation – they don't know where their next meal is. And on top of that, you have 14 million people in IPC 2 that are knocking on that same door, so if we're not very careful we could truly enter the abyss and see catastrophic conditions – worse than what we see now. In fact, 3 out of 4 people in Afghanistan are already engaged in food-related coping strategies. What we're seeing is back-to-back drought, years of conflict, Covid, economic deterioration, lack of cash, in fact 40% of the wheat crop this year has been lost, and I could just keep going. Cooking oil has doubled in price. All of these things make for a bad situation for all the people in Afghanistan.

"We need an additional US\$ 200 million. Here's what I'm extremely concerned about. We have 4 million people in very difficult areas to reach when the winter season hits in a couple of months – if we don't pre-position food in those areas we will face a catastrophe. The time is now, we cannot wait six months – we need the funds immediately so we can move the supplies, to pre-position before the winter sets in. We cannot turn our back on the people of Afghanistan. We have 467 employees on the ground in Afghanistan - they are putting their lives on the line every day to make sure that people don't suffer.

"We are working with relevant authorities to make sure we get the access that we need, but also to ensure that all of our women staff can continue to work all throughout the country -

and at the same time we want to continue providing school meals to make sure that little boys and little girls get healthy school meals.

“When you understand that 40% of the GDP comes from foreign aid, and 75% of public spending is from international funding, you begin to see that while the crisis we face today is great, if we’re not careful and we’re not strategic, we could face mass migration, destabilization in the region, and for certain, starvation for millions of Afghan people. So we’ve got a lot of work to do – I’ll be back in the region in a couple of weeks. Our teams will continue to collaborate and work together with the entire UN and NGO community. And we’ll be pushing the limit to make sure we can reach every single person possible. Please step up and step up now so that we can do our job.”

The United Nations **World Food Programme** is the world’s largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change. It is also the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

## UNHCR Australia seeks help



*UNHCR trucks containing core relief items enter Afghanistan via Pakistan’s Torkham border point. ©UNHCR/Shaheryar Anjum*

**Naomi Steer**, National Director of **UNHCR Australia**, is also appealing to the public for funds. She said, “As the current Afghanistan crisis continues to unfold, it is clear we are dealing with a major humanitarian emergency. There are now more than 3.5 million people displaced within Afghanistan, 80 per cent of whom are women and children.

“UNHCR is on the ground providing critical and life-saving support to the millions of Afghans requiring humanitarian assistance, with access to all provinces. Our priorities are providing protection and core relief items including food, shelter, water and hygiene and sanitation kits.

“UNHCR has continued with its regular community programming including the development of schools, infrastructure, and expanding livelihood opportunities – this has reached more than 1.3 million people this year. I am heartened that my concern for the safety and welfare of Afghans has been shared by thousands of Australians. Your support has ensured that UNHCR can continue its life-saving work in the country delivering thousands of emergency survival kits while also working with authorities in countries neighbouring Afghanistan to plan and prepare for potential future large-scale movement of Afghan refugees, including to safeguard their right to seek asylum.

She quotes United Nations Secretary General António Guterres as saying, “Now more than ever, Afghan children, women and men need the support and solidarity of the international community. The humanitarian system’s commitment to stay and deliver will not waver.”

Ms Steer concludes with an appeal, “We will stay and deliver for the Afghan people as long as we have access to populations in need. Your support will help us reach many more of the most vulnerable Afghans, at a time when the number of people in need is growing fast and the funding gap to help them is rising even faster. The people of Afghanistan need our support now more than ever and we are committed to helping and protecting them. Please donate now and help protect Afghan families that have been forced to flee.”



***Linguistic Organisation and Native Title:  
The Wik Case, Australia***

by: [Peter Sutton](#), [Kenneth Locke Hale](#)

ISBN (print – rrp \$75.00): 9781760464462

ISBN (online): 9781760464479

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/LONT.2021>

Classical Aboriginal societies in Australia have commonly been described in terms of social organisation and local organisation. This book presents rich detail on a third and related domain that has not been given the same kind of attention: linguistic organisation. Basing their analyses on fieldwork among the Wik peoples of Cape York Peninsula, north Australia, Peter Sutton and Ken Hale show how cosmology, linguistic variation, language prehistory, clan totemic identities, geopolitics, land use and land ownership created a vibrant linguistic organisation in a classical Aboriginal society. This has been a society long in love with language and languages. Its people have richly imbued the domain of rights and interests in country—the foundations of their native title as recognised in Australian law—with rights and interests in the abundance of languages and dialects given to them at the start of the world.

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***Finding the Enemy Within:  
Blasphemy Accusations and Subsequent Violence  
in Pakistan***

by: Sana Ashraf

ISBN (print - rrp \$55.00): 9781760464547

ISBN (online): 9781760464554

ANU Press. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/FEW.2021>

In the past decade, Pakistan has witnessed incidents such as the public lynching of a student on a university campus, a Christian couple being torched alive, attacks on entire neighbourhoods by angry mobs and the assassination of a provincial governor by his own security guard over allegations of blasphemy. *Finding the Enemy Within* unpacks the meanings and motivations behind accusations of blasphemy and subsequent violence in Pakistan.

This is the first ethnographic study of its kind analysing the perspectives of a range of different actors including accusers, religious scholars and lawyers involved in blasphemy-related incidents in Pakistan. Bringing together anthropological perspectives on religion, violence and law, this book reworks prevalent analytical dichotomies of reason/emotion,



culture/religion, traditional/Western, state/non-state and legal/extralegal to extend our understanding of the upsurge of blasphemy-related violence in Pakistan.

Through the case study of blasphemy accusations in Pakistan, this book addresses broader questions of difference, individual and collective identities, social and symbolic boundaries, and conflict and violence in modern nation-states.

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## *China's Challenges in Moving towards a High-income Economy*

**Edited by:** [Ligang Song](#), and Yixiao Zhou

ISBN (print – rrp \$65.00): 9781760464523

ISBN (online): 9781760464530

ANU Press, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/CCMTHE.2021>

Series: [China Update Series](#)

With its per capita income surpassing US\$10,000, China has now drawn up ambitious plans to further lift its income to the level of developed countries. Yet various constraints need to be overcome if China is to build on the achievements of the last 40 years and further boost its growth potential. Besides these constraints, the year 2020 saw human societies hit heavily by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economy caught off guard and dipped into recessions caused by lockdown measures for controlling the spread of the pandemic.

Nations around the world have experienced grave loss of human life and lockdown measures have knocked economies from their normal growth trajectories. Even as the pandemic continues to unfold, all signs point to China as being the first major economy to have emerged out of the crisis. But many questions remain, including:

- Has the Chinese economy emerged from the pandemic crisis relatively unscathed?
- What are the long-term prospects for its economy?

This year's Update book, *China's Challenges in Moving towards a High-income Economy*, explores the challenges faced by the Chinese economy in the transition towards a high-income economy, including agricultural development, finance and fiscal system reform, RMB internationalisation, trends in urbanisation, as well as topics related to innovation, corporate sector development and market competition. China's growth experience has been full of exciting changes and important lessons for reform and structural changes, and this year's China Update is again the way to gain insights into these.

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## *East Asia Forum Quarterly: Volume 13, Number 3, 2021*

ISSN (print - not available for purchase): 1837-5081

ISSN (online): 1837-509X

ANU Press DOI: <http://doi.org/10.22459/EAFAQ.13.03.2021>

The 2020 Olympics put a spotlight on Japan's crisis governance capabilities. Whether it be in the sphere of social issues, domestic political economy or foreign policy, Japan's capacity to manage 'slow-burn' crises will be a primary test for the country's policy-makers and citizens alike in coming years. This edition of *East Asian Forum Quarterly* looks at these challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, digital governance, women's rights in the #MeToo era, foreign policy, natural disaster response and one-party control of Japan's government.

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### Diary Dates

Craig Reynolds is coordinator of ANUEF's Events' Diary ([creynolds697@gmail.com](mailto:creynolds697@gmail.com)) also [Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au](mailto:Craig.Reynolds@anu.edu.au)).

### Meet the author

**Colin Steele** advises that it is worth booking ANU-*Canberra Times* meet-the-author events because if they are cancelled existing bookings will be moved to another date.

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/anu-the-canberra-times-meet-the-author-series>

**September 20 Lisa Millar** in conversation with **Alex Sloan** *Daring to Fly: Facing fear and finding joy on a deadline*.

**September 29 Delia Falconer** in conversation with **Karen Viggers** *Signs and wonders*.

### Catch up with the authors

To access all Meet-the-Author conversations access

<https://www.anu.edu.au/events/all-podcasts>

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## **National Film and Sound Archive**

- Samuel François-Steininger has colourised footage from the NFSA collection of Benjamin, the last Tasmanian Tiger in captivity.
- NFSA has discovered a rare Led Zeppelin interview. Before his death in 1980, Led Zeppelin's John Bonham gave few interviews or spoke in public. But there was at least one exception. The NFSA has unearthed what it describes as “an incredible hour-plus long interview with the legendary drummer, which has become a centrepiece of the new authorised documentary, *Becoming Led Zeppelin*.”

## **At the National Library - Closed during Covid lock-down**

## **At the NGA - Closed during Covid lock-down**

### **Exhibitions at the National Gallery of Australia**

Jeffrey Smart Exhibition Insights was introduced by the curatorial team on August 12, speaking about the preparations for the *Jeffrey Smart* exhibition. Dr Deborah Hart, Henry Dalrymple, Head Curator, Australian Art and Rebecca Edwards, Sid & Fiona Myer Curator, Australian Art, shared their curatorial journeys researching the artist's practice and developing the themes of the exhibition. The talk included a visual presentation of a selection of images of works of art in the exhibition.

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2021 National Indigenous Art Triennial; free. The National Indigenous Art Triennial is the nation's first large-scale recurring exhibition dedicated to contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and artists.

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## **Administration**

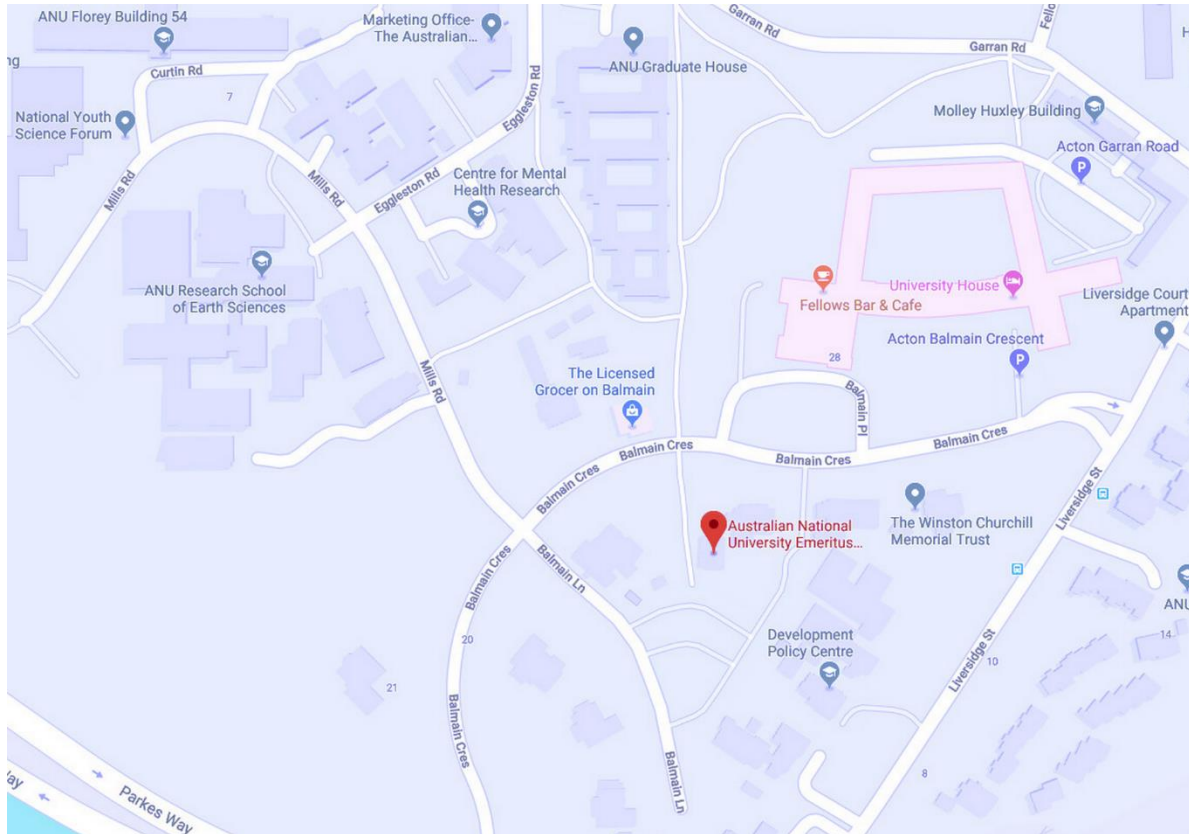
### **Arrangements for ANUEF room bookings**

Requests for booking the Molony Room should be addressed to Secretary of the ANU Emeritus Faculty **Jan O'Connor** at [jantancress@gmail.com](mailto:jantancress@gmail.com) or Tel: 6247 3341

### **Finding the Molony Room**

The Molony Room is at 24 Balmain Crescent, on the south side of Balmain Crescent almost opposite University House.

It is Building 1c on <https://tinyurl.com/yckuknbj> set back between No 22 Balmain Crescent, which is the Acton Early Childhood Centre, and No 26 Balmain Crescent, which is the Academy of the Social Sciences. There are four free car parking spaces reserved for ANUEF members visiting the Molony Room in the Balmain Lane Car Park immediately south of the Molony Room. The room is marked on: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsyqgh>



The next edition of *Emeritus*, the ANUEF e-magazine, will be published in October.